

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of multiple vendor offered products, wherein said system comprises a plurality of components, one or more of said components located locally or remotely, said system comprising:
two or more offerings of products from two or more vendors, said offerings including at least any of: price, time restrictions, use restrictions, class, availability, rules, ~~or description(s) and product descriptions~~; computer storage retaining said two or more offerings of products; computerized intelligent compilation of packages comprising selected ones of said two or more offerings of products, ~~said compilation each package~~ including at least two distinct products of two product types that are matched based on a congruency matching of defined restrictions and other criteria comprising any of: geographic distributions, type of product, time considerations, cost, ~~defined restrictions~~, intelligent agents, and distribution channel limitations, wherein the defined restrictions for at least one product in a package are dependent on another product accepted in or excluded from the package; computerized package cost determination including any of: summation of individual costs of products included in said compiled package, commissions, discounts, and special promotional items;

an interface for entering one or more search request(s) for possible packages, and

wherein said compilation is performed partially or wholly before said request for possible packages or interactively during said request.

2. (previously amended) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein said products include two or more of travel related items.
3. (previously amended) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein said products include two or more of: airline seating, hotel rooms, car rentals, and auxiliary travel support items.
4. (original) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein a user searches for possible packages based on a match to desired criteria.
5. (original) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein said system further includes a purchase option for a selected package.
6. (original) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 5, wherein said system further

comprises booking actual reservations with each vendor for products in a purchased package.

7. (previously amended) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein said system dynamically reformulates said compilation of packages based on availability of said vendor offered products.
8. (previously amended) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein said components located locally or remotely are connected by at least one of computer-based networks, LANs, WANs, and cellular, wireless, Internet, WWW, and satellite based communication mediums.
9. (currently amended) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products, wherein said system comprises a plurality of components, one or more of said components located locally or remotely, said system comprising:

two or more offerings of travel products from two or more vendors, said offerings including at least two product types selected from airline seating, hotel rooms, car rentals, and auxiliary travel support items with any of associated: price, time restrictions, use restrictions, class, availability, rules, and description(s);

computer storage retaining said one or more offerings of products; computerized intelligent compilation of travel packages comprising selected ones of said two or more offerings of products, each package including offerings of at least two product types, said compilation based on a congruency matching of defined restrictions and other criteria comprising any of: geographic distributions, type of product, time considerations, cost, ~~defined restrictions~~, intelligent agents, and distribution channel limitations, wherein the defined restrictions for at least one product in a package are dependent on another product accepted in or excluded from the package;

computerized package cost determination including any of: summation of individual costs of products included in said compiled package, commissions, discounts, and special promotional items;

an interface for entering one or more search request(s) for possible packages, said compilation performed partially or wholly before said request for possible packages or interactively during said request;

a purchase option for a selected package, and

a booking mechanism to finalize reservations with each vendor for products in a purchased package.

10. (previously amended) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 9, wherein said

system dynamically reformulates said compilation of packages based on availability of said vendor offered products.

11. (original) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 9, wherein said components located locally or remotely are connected by any of: computer-based networks, LANs, WANs, cellular, wireless, Internet, WWW, satellite, or other data/telecommunications based communication mediums.

12. (currently amended) A computer-based e-commerce method dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products, wherein said method comprises a plurality of steps, one or more of said steps performed locally or remotely, said method comprising:

retrieving two or more offerings of travel products from two or more vendors, said offerings including at least two product types selected from airline seating, hotel rooms, car rentals, and auxiliary travel support items with any of associated: price, time restrictions, use restrictions, class, availability, rules, and description(s);

retaining said two or more offerings of products in computer storage; intelligently compiling travel packages comprising selected ones of said one or more offerings of products, each package including offerings of at least two product types, said compiling based on a congruency matching of defined restrictions and other criteria comprising any of: geographic

distributions, type of product, time considerations, cost, defined restrictions, intelligent agents, and distribution channel limitations, wherein the defined restrictions for at least one product in a package are dependent on another product accepted in or excluded from the package; receiving one or more search request(s) for possible packages; presenting possible packages meeting a requestors criteria; determining a total cost by any of: summation of individual costs of products included in said compiled package, commissions, discounts, and special promotional items, and processing payment of a one or more selected travel packages.

13. (original) A computer-based e-commerce method dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products as per claim 12, further comprising the step of booking actual reservations with each vendor for products in a purchased package.
14. (original) A computer-based e-commerce method dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products, as per claim 12, wherein said compilation is performed partially or wholly before said request for possible packages or interactively during said request.
15. (original) A computer-based e-commerce method dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products, as per claim 12, wherein said method

dynamically reformulates said compilated packages based on availability of said vendor offered products.

16. (original) A computer-based e-commerce method dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products, as per claim 12, wherein said one or more steps performed locally or remotely are performed across any of: computer-based networks, LANs, WANs, cellular, wireless, Internet, WWW, satellite, or other data/telecommunications based communication mediums.
17. (currently amended) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products, wherein said system comprises a plurality of components, one or more of said components located locally or remotely, said system comprising:
 - a centralized travel packaging system;
 - connections between said centralized travel packaging system and one two or more remotely located travel vendor revenue management systems individually used to manage one of at least two distinct product types, said connections across any of: computer-based networks, LANs, WANs, cellular, wireless, Internet, WWW, satellite, or other data/telecommunications based communication mediums, said vendor revenue management systems producing said vendor offered travel products;

a searching interface, said interface receiving a search request including requestor travel criteria;

an intelligent matching mechanism retained within said centralized travel packaging system, said matching mechanism using said requestor criteria and additional criteria comprising defined restrictions and other criteria including any of: geographic distributions, type of product, time considerations, cost, ~~defined restrictions~~, expert travel packaging knowledge base, and distribution channel limitations to match vendor offered travel products and compile travel packages, each package including offerings representing at least two of the at least two distinct product types, and wherein the defined restrictions for at least one product in a package are dependent on another product accepted in or excluded from the package;

a travel packages database storing said compilited travel packages;

a financial transaction mechanism to complete a purchase of a package selected from said compilited travel packages, and

a booking mechanism to finalize reservations with each travel vendor for products in a purchased package.

18. (previously amended) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 17, wherein said system dynamically reformulates said compilation of packages based on availability of said vendor offered products.

19. (original) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products, as per claim 17, wherein said compilation is performed partially or wholly before said search request for possible packages or interactively during said request.
20. (previously amended) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein said requestor criteria includes criteria provided by at least one of travel agents, distributors and individual requestors.
21. (original) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein said intelligent matching mechanism includes a removal element removing any packages which do not meet restrictions of a distribution channel that issued the search request.
22. (original) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein said financial transaction mechanism includes a commission element meeting a commission schedule of a distribution channel that issued the search request.
23. (original) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein said connections between said centralized travel packaging system and one or more remotely located

travel vendor revenue management systems include any of: a direct connection, through a central reservation system (CRS), or a vendor's website.

24. (currently amended) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein said defined restrictions include any of: which companies may or may not be included in the packages, which other types of companies may or may not be included in the packages, minimal/maximal travel duration, minimal/maximal travelers, days of week that must be or must not be included in the travel duration, prices of other products in the package, discounts on other products in the package, or the relative part of each product in the package, available payment methods, conditions and restrictions for modifying the reservation ~~of or~~ canceling the reservation, dynamic price of package according to any of: duration of stay, number of travelers, days of week, participating companies, geographical location.
25. (original) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein system further includes distributors to control which packages are available to reservation staff or consumers who search for packages from a distributor's facility, said control comprising criteria to include/exclude products of specific companies, the distributor's commission that should be added to the final price, minimal/maximal travel duration, minimal/maximal travelers.

26. (original) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein said requestor travel criteria includes one or more of: when, where, types of activities, price, and luxury level.
27. (original) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein said defined restrictions include limitations to filter out business travelers.
28. (original) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein each distribution channel defines selling options to control what packages can be sold through the specific distribution channel, and special parameters for selling packages through the specific distribution channel including any of: packages of which specific companies may be sold, packages of which specific companies may not be sold, how much should be added to the price as markup/commission, limits on duration of travel, limits on location of travel, or limits on the price of the package.
29. (currently amended) A computer-based e-commerce method for committing previously uncommitted travel products, wherein said method comprises a plurality of steps, one or more of said steps implemented locally or remotely, said system comprising:

determining available travel products from an inventory, based on any of: historical data, price, class, demand, time before use, type; placing defined restrictions on two or more of said determined travel products wherein the defined restrictions for at least one travel product are dependent on another travel product when the one product and the other product are offered in a travel package; offering said two or more of said determined travel products with associated restrictions to a centralized travel packaging system, said centralized travel packaging system located across at least one of computer-based networks, LANs, WANs, and cellular, wireless, Internet, WWW, satellite-based communication mediums, receiving confirmed reservations from said centralized travel packaging system, said reservations included in one or more selected travel packages stored within a travel packages database as determined by an intelligent matching and compilation mechanism retained within said centralized travel packaging system, each package including two or more travel products of at least two product types, and wherein said uncommitted travel products are committed by acceptance of said actual reservations.

30. (previously amended) A computer-based e-commerce method for committing previously uncommitted travel products, as per claim 29, wherein said defined restrictions include any of: which companies may or may not be included in the

packages, which other types of companies may or may not be included in the packages, minimal/maximal travel duration, minimal/maximal travelers, days of week that must be or must not be included in the travel duration, prices of other products in the package, discounts on other products in the package, or the relative part of each product in the package, available payment methods, conditions and restrictions for modifying the reservation or canceling the reservation, dynamic price of package according to any of: duration of stay, number of travelers, days of week, participating companies, geographical location.

31. (original) A computer-based e-commerce method for committing previously uncommitted travel products, as per claim 29, wherein said centralized travel packaging system dynamically reformulates said compilated packages based on availability of one or more of said determined travel products.
32. (currently amended) A computer-based e-commerce method for committing previously uncommitted travel products, as per claim 29, wherein said centralized travel packaging system receives ~~one~~ two or more of said determined travel products from a plurality of travel product vendors.
33. (new) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein the defined restrictions for the at least one product in the package are defined by the one of the two or more vendors offering the at least one product.

34. (new) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein the at least one product in the package is offered by one of the two or more vendors and the other product accepted in or excluded from the package is offered by another one of the two or more vendors.
35. (new) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein the defined restrictions for the at least one product in the package are defined by a distributor of the compiled packages.
36. (new) A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 9, wherein computerized package cost is displayed in response to said request as a total sum of individual costs, commissions, discounts and special promotional items and without a breakdown of individual costs, commissions, discounts and special promotional items.